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FOR PUBLIC AFFAIRS STAFF

PROGRAM CBS News Special Report

STATION WDVM-TV
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DATE October 25, 1983 9:05 AM

CITY Washington, DC

SUBJECT The President Explains Granda

THE PRESIDENT: On Sunday, October 23rd, the United States received an urgent formal request from the five member nations of the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States to assist in a joint effort to restore order and democracy on the Island of Grenada.

We acceded to the request to become part of a multinational effort with contingents from Antigua, Barbados, Dominica, Jamaica, St. Lucia, St. Vincent and the United States. I might add that two of those, Barbados and Jamaica, are not members of the Organization, but were first approached, as we later were, by the OECS and asked to join in that undertaking, and then all of them join unanimously in asking us to participate.

Early this morning, forces from six Caribbean democracies and the United States began a landing, or landings, on the Island of Grenada in the Eastern Caribbean. We have taken this decisive action for three reasons.

First, and overriding importance, to protect innocent lives, including up to a thousand Americans whose personal safety is, of course, my paramount concern.

Second, to forestall further chaos.

And third, to assist in the restoration of conditions of law and order and of governmental institutions to the Island of Grenada where a brutal group of leftist thugs violently